Private
That is not for publication

Portland Feb 14. 1854

My Dear Friend Garrison

I received your response to my letter by due course of Mail. and immediately communicated it to my friend Dr Lord who is the person for whom I made the application. The Dr had a feeling that the giving of his name at the first, might operate prejudically against him for several reasons and that Mr Barker might be advised to refuse to debate the subject with him upon mere personal grounds. But he anticipated the possibility of the contingent conditions which Mr Barker made and therefore did not wish to give his name until he knew whether Mr B would insist upon his popular Orthodoxy. I think, if I understand both of the men, that his view of the Bible question will not vary much, if any, from Adin Ballou's. Their conclusions in respect to doctrine may, Dr Lord has withdrawn from the M E Church and Ministry because he considers the church and Ministry heretical. of course he is not the man whom the popular religion would put forward as their champion, as they will be scathed more severely than the unbelievers and pronounced to be the responsible causes of all heresy and infidelity.

The Dr is a <u>good man</u>, a kind man, a benevolent man - a man who carries his heart in his hand and will never withhold any aid he can give in the way which he ~~thinks~~ conscientiously deems right to the

cause of humanity. But he is an odd man. he has a way of his own, a philosophy of his own, a logic of his own and every thing must be done philosophically and logically. Like Henry C Wright who is so certain of the absolute truth of non-resistence consistently and logically adhered to, that he would not put a vote into the ballot box under our constitutions, even if that vote would liberate all the slaves in the land, because it would be a violation of principle and infinite or an equally great evil might grow therefrom. So John Lord holds logic as sacred as H C W does non-resistance. He believes logic to be divine wisdom. The sword of the spirit the battle axe of truth. The Key of knowledge which will unlock all the portals of the temple and unfold to the view of those who enter, all the glorious imagery which is concealed in the chambers of Mystery. The Dr is an exciteable man and when he gets engaged and his feelings called into exercise he is regardless as to who is his opponent whether personally friend or foe and those who take exceptions to his manner he considers in the same light, as the Garrisonians do those who object to the manner and diction of the uncompromising abolitionists; viz, That it is the truth that wounds and not the spirit or style of its advocates. and as one of that class I feel disposed to yield to the Dr all that he claims on that ground altho there may be an essential difference of opinion between us on this ground

I have had some written controversy with him and he has not been more careful of wounding me and that too by throwing his missiles with all his might than he or you would be in criticising the Nebraska bill.
He maintains that David Hume was a better theologian and a better christian than the clergy who denounce him and pronounces H C Wrights late epistle in answer to the question of his infidelity to be a sound position which he is ready to endorse. On the Bible argument I think he and you will come out pretty much at the same place of egress however widely apart you may enter.

He has certainly produced the thing in nature that is entitled to the name of Logic - a little essay which I send you. It will enable you more understandingly to follow him in this unique method of argument.

He holds man to be possessed of seven senses instead of five, by means of which he establishes the long maintained and long disputed axiom - "Nothing is in the understanding which was not first perceived by some of the senses". "But neither of the five senses can take cognisence of intellectual operations, or moral sensations or impressions, or of moral truth. Yet our knowledge of these is as real as any we get thro the aid of the five senses" - He therefore says "Conscience is our sense or susceptibility of Moral feelings and sensibilities, an office which neither of the five nor all of them together can perform.

"Consciousness is our sense or susceptibility of realization or knowledge without which As A Sense ~~without which~~ we could know nothing ~~else~~ tho' we had the other six all in a healthy State — Could we? Let the Objector join issue?"

The most difficult position he has taken and to my understanding the most absurd is his position on Geology. I should like to hear that part of the subject discussed more than any other. I go with the Geologists. his views I cannot perceive to be either philosophical or logical here, but that may be my obtuseness and not his error.—— I have thus written because it requires an acquaintance some time with this man to understand him; and he is so peculiar that few persons are disposed to do so. As a general thing in conversation he satisfies himself with showing the vulnerableness of others rather than in communicating [illegible] in his own strength lies; until he finds a person manifesting a real interest in the subject and disposed to examine it; Then by holding him to a point, his views may be ascertained. The most objectionable feature about the Dr is that he appears as a great Egotist and people get disgusted with this weakness; but I have learned to be patient with this trait of character for the sake of the real genius with which he is endowed.

Present my regards to Joseph Barker I have a great desire to see him. Which I hope yet to do I wish he could come here and lecture to us but he would find few to appreciate him. Truly thine D S Grandin